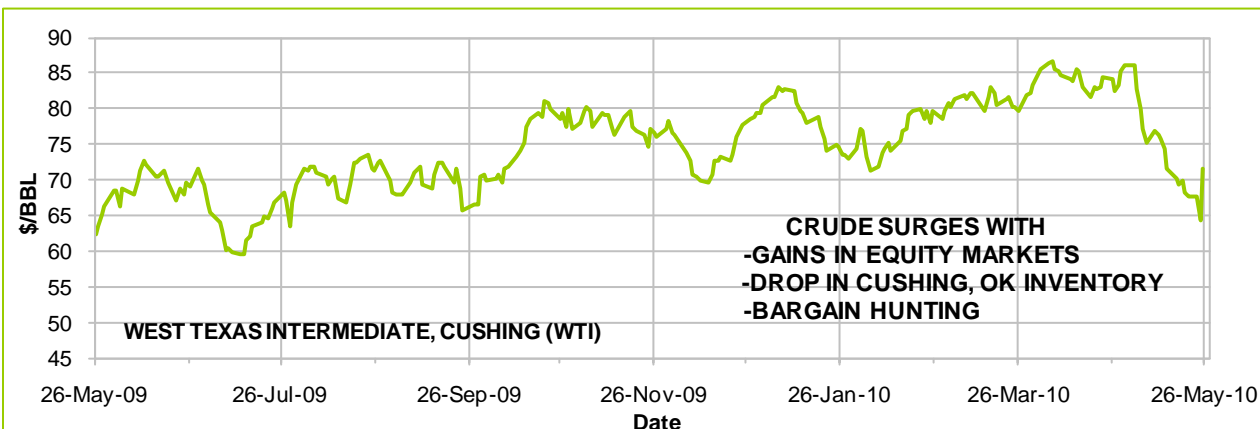


## Crude Oil



Crude inventories grew by 2.5 million barrels this past week. This was better than the 0.2 million barrel decline that was expected and much better than the 3.1 million barrel average decline for this time period. Contrary to the overall U.S. inventory gain, stocks at the important hub at Cushing, OK fell by 0.3 million. Crude stocks have improved to 0.3% above last year, the first year over year gain since January 8<sup>th</sup>, and to 7.5% above the 5-year average. For this time period inventory levels are now at their highest level in the past 20 years.

Prices fell to their lowest levels of the year on Tuesday before recovering yesterday. Spot prices are up \$1.63 for the week. At \$71.50, they are \$9.05 (14.5%) higher than a year ago but 50.8% lower than 2008's peak price. Futures prices are down 51 cents for the week and down \$13.79 over the past 4 weeks. At \$75.00, they are \$9.71 (14.9%) higher than last year but 48.8% below 2008's peak price.

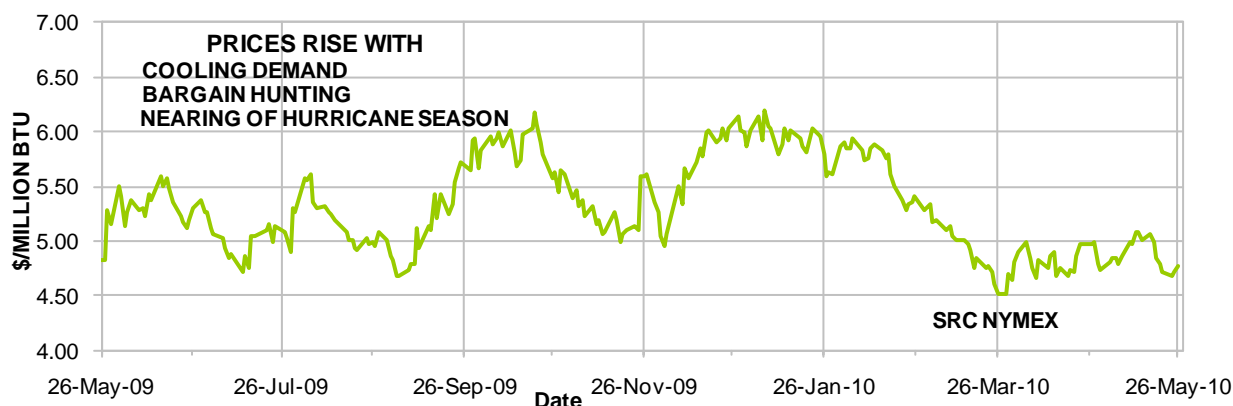


## Natural Gas



Inventories rose by 104 BCF this past week. This was 10% above the 5-year average gain of 94 BCF and 4% above the expected gain of 100 BCF. Over the past 10 weeks inventories are up by 654 BCF compared to a normal gain of only 410 BCF for the time period. At 2,269 BCF, this week's inventory level is 16.3% above the 5-year average and 3.2% higher than a year ago. It is the highest ever for this date.

Although prices have been generally falling, yesterday's surge in crude also impacted gas prices. Futures prices settled at \$4.772 per million BTU, down 6.5 cents for the week and 1.2% lower than a year ago. They are 64.2% below their 2008 peak. They have fallen by 23% since the beginning of the year. Spot prices fell by 9 cents this past week. They ended yesterday at \$4.200 per million BTU. They are 24.6% higher than a year ago but 68.4% below their 2008 peak price. They are down 44% since the start of 2010.



# Heating oil



Distillate stocks fell by 0.3 million barrels this past week. This compares to the expected gain of 0.3 million and the 5-year average gain of 1.2 million. Inventory levels are 2.8% above last year and 26.9% above the five-year average

Spot and futures prices continue to follow crude prices. Until yesterday's crude price surge they had been falling. The 12 month strip is now at \$2.029/gal, 31.2 cents (18.2%) higher than a year ago. The spot price is at \$1.903 /gal, 37.8 cents (24.8%) above last year. Both are more than 50% below their 2008 peak prices. Retail prices plummeted by 14.1 cents this past week and have fallen by 22.1 cents over the past 3 weeks as heating oil prices followed crude downward. At \$2.738/gal, retail prices are 50.3 cents (22.5%) above a year ago but are \$2.029 (42.6%) below their 2008 peak price. The highest price in this week's survey was \$3.399 and the lowest was \$2.299. According to census data, 49.1% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with oil.



## Connecticut Regional Heating Oil Prices

	FAIRFIELD			HARTFORD			NEW LONDON		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
25-May-09	2.479	2.749	2.199	2.197	2.499	1.749	2.233	2.410	2.029
10-May-10	3.051	3.599	2.500	2.842	3.199	2.499	2.986	3.599	2.600
17-May-10	3.025	3.599	2.500	2.827	3.199	2.499	2.969	3.599	2.699
24-May-10	2.903	3.399	2.340	2.694	3.199	2.299	2.778	3.399	2.450

	LITCHFIELD			MIDDLESEX			TOLLAND-WINDHAM		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
25-May-09	2.213	2.299	1.999	2.259	2.399	2.199	2.116	2.299	1.999
10-May-10	2.835	2.999	2.699	2.985	3.099	2.850	2.819	2.959	2.669
17-May-10	2.817	2.899	2.699	2.934	3.099	2.790	2.799	2.929	2.669
24-May-10	2.665	2.769	2.549	2.726	2.999	2.399	2.661	2.849	2.539

	NEW HAVEN		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW
25-May-09	2.153	2.379	1.909
10-May-10	2.812	2.999	2.499
17-May-10	2.805	2.999	2.590
24-May-10	2.689	2.899	2.399

OPM conducts a weekly survey of retail heating oil prices in Connecticut. These figures reference the most recent results of that survey for the reporting week beginning May 24, 2010. Figures reflect per gallon prices without discount.

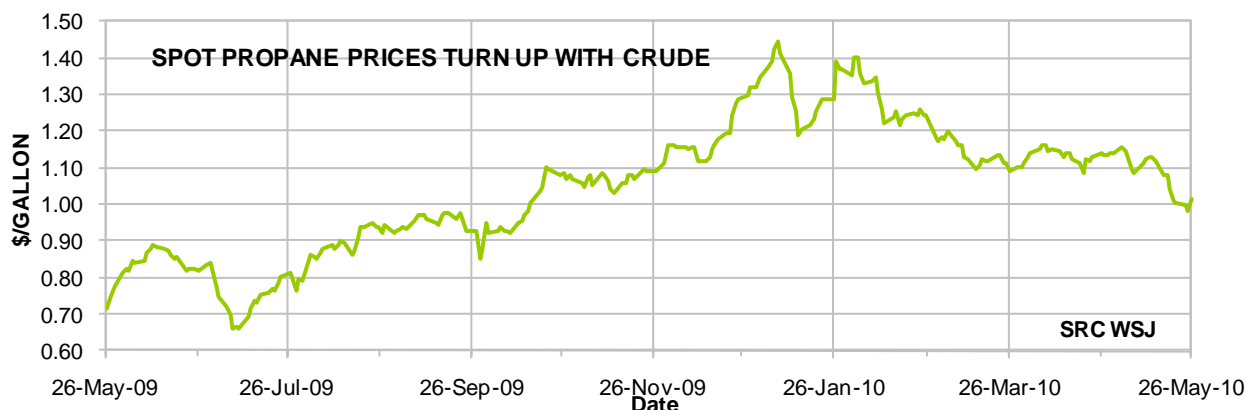
For more information, see [www.ct.gov/OPM](http://www.ct.gov/OPM) > Energy Management > Energy Price and Supply Information

# Propane



Propane inventories increased this past week by only 0.2 million barrels as production and imports both fell. The 5 year average gain is 1.6 million. Over the past 10 weeks inventories have grown by 14.6 million barrels, 66% above the 5-year average change for this time period of only 8.8 million. Current storage levels now trail last year's levels by 19.2% but are 1.0% above the five-year average. Eleven weeks ago they were 21.6% below the 5-year average.

Spot propane prices had been tracking crude downward but rose yesterday as crude prices surged upward. Spot propane prices fell another 2.6 cents per gallon this past week and since January 7<sup>th</sup> they have fallen by 43.1 cents (29.8%). At \$1.015 per gallon yesterday, they are 30 cents (42.0%) higher than a year ago but 48.7% lower than their peak 2008 price. According to census data, 2.7% of homes in Connecticut are heated by propane.



# Gasoline



Gasoline inventories fell by 0.2 million barrels this past week. Both the forecast and the 5-year average called for virtually no weekly change. Inventories levels are a healthy 8.9% above last year and 7.4% above the 5-year average. Despite the weekly decline, stocks are at a record high level for this date.

Spot and futures prices fell again this past week and are down by 46 cents (20%) since the beginning of May. Wednesday's spot price was \$1.865/gal, only \$0.058 (3.2%) higher than last year. The 12-month strip, at \$1.942/gal, was \$0.188 (10.7%) higher than a year ago. They are 45% below 2008 peaks. Retail prices fell by 7.4 cents this past week and are under \$3 for the first time in 4 weeks. At \$2.980/gal, retail prices are 43 cents (16.9%) higher than a year ago but 32.1% (\$1.336) below 2008's peak.

